

Amendments in the Specification:

Before the first paragraph on the first page please insert the following:

Cross-Reference To Related Applications

This application claims priority from PCT/EP04/12991 filed on November 16, 2004, which claims priority of German Patent Application No. 103 53 642.6, filed November 17, 2003, the disclosures of which is expressly incorporated by reference herein in their entireties.

On page 1, please add the following heading and please amend the first paragraph as follows:

Field Of The Invention

The present invention relates to a functional element having a longitudinal axis, a body section, a hollow piercing section, a ring-like contact surface at the body part, which extends substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis and radially away from the piercing section, and an axially extending ring groove which is provided in the body section radially inside the contact surface, with the functional element being designed for attachment to a component which is a plate-like shape at least in the region of the attachment, in particular to a sheet metal part, wherein the body section has a pressing surface at the side remote from the piercing section and wherein ribs provided security against rotation are preferably provided which cross the ring groove at least in part and wherein the free end of the piercing section is provided with a ring-like cutting edge. Furthermore the present invention relates to a component assembly ~~in accordance with claim 34~~, to a method for manufacture of a component assembly ~~in accordance with claim 53~~ and also to a method for the manufacture of the functional element ~~in accordance with claim 55~~.

On page 1, line 23, before the second paragraph please insert the following:

PZ119539

Background of the Invention

On page 2, line 6, before the second paragraph please insert the following:

Summary of the Invention

On page 7, line 6, before the second paragraph please insert the following:

Brief Description of the Drawings

On page 8, line 17, before the last paragraph please insert the following:

Detailed Description of the Invention